

Comments on the proposed precedence of *Aphonopelma* Pocock, 1901 (Arachnida, Araneae) over *Rhechostica* Simon, 1892

(Case 2662; see BZN 46: 165–166, 189–190)

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Levi & Kraus present a case for the precedence of *Aphonopelma* over the older *Rhechostica*. The information given in their application is incomplete, however. Nobody naming any material from central America or southern North America ever considered the taxonomic status of *Rhechostica* until I did so (Raven, 1985). The family THERAPHOSIDAE has not been revised, either in its entirety or in any region, including North America. A group so long left without revision becomes, as did the THERAPHOSIDAE, a nomenclatural and taxonomic nightmare.

Three generic names (*Eurypelma*, *Aphonopelma* and *Rhechostica*) have been applied to one species, *Eurypelma californicum* Ausserer, 1871. Despite all activities of taxonomists, U.S. experimentalists in fact persist in using the binomen *Eurypelma californicum* for this common U.S. spider used in physiological and anatomical studies. That species has been used only once in the combination *Aphonopelma californicum*. Hence, the name *Eurypelma* Koch, 1850 still ranks higher in usage than any other. Most of those uses refer to what some prefer to call *Aphonopelma*.

The name *Rhechostica* has not been forgotten by any cataloguer. The application by Levi & Kraus (1989) omits mention of Simon (1903) and Petrunkevitch (1928). The latest catalogue (Platnick, 1989) upholds the usage of *Rhechostica*. The most recent papers cited in the application are dated 1986. However, Raven (1985) was published in December of 1985 and since then a number of authors (e.g. Bevington, 1989; Harvey, 1989; Lowe, 1989; Schmidt, 1989; Smith, 1986, 1989) have cited *Rhechostica* as the senior synonym of *Aphonopelma*.

Many in the scientific world and the pet trade who keep in touch with the literature concerning names of animals have adopted *Rhechostica* since my careful study of the type species of all mygalomorph genera where some representative, if not the types, existed. My change was a change from total confusion to stability. The alternative is yet another change simply for the sake of name-changing.

No contention exists about the greater usage of *Aphonopelma* over *Rhechostica* in the past. However, *Eurypelma* is the most frequently used name for theraphosids in North America. Use of either *Aphonopelma* or *Eurypelma* is the result of incomplete studies. I consider that *Rhechostica* should be retained rather than *Aphonopelma*, so that the stability so far gained remains.

Additional references

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(2) Support for the application by Levi & Kraus (BZN **46**: 165–166) has been received from the following (see also BZN **46**: 189–190): J.C. Cockendolpher (Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409, U.S.A.), B.Y. Main (University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia 6009), D. Ubick (California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California 9411, U.S.A.) and T. Yaginuma (3-7-14 Harinakano, Higashisumiyoshi-ku, Osaka 546, Japan).

Comments on the proposed designation of *Fonscolombia graminis* Lichtenstein, 1877 as the type species of *Fonscolombia* Lichtenstein, 1877, with an additional proposal to suppress the names *Tychea* Koch, 1857 and *T. graminis* Koch, 1857 (Insecta, Homoptera)

(Case 2695; see BZN **46**: 119–122)

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I support the proposal of Ben-Dov & Matile-Ferrero. The names *Fonscolombia* and *F. graminis* date from the reference 'Lichtenstein, 1877b' given in the application. This paper in the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* appeared before 11 July 1877, while the reference '1877a' was published on 5 September (see *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France*, (5)7, bulletin bibliographique, pp. 35, 43). In a third paper published in 1877 (late August), which is not mentioned in the application, Lichtenstein clearly stated (p. 491) that his *graminis* was distinct from *Coccus radicograminis* Fonscolombe, and he synonymized it with *Tychea graminis* Koch.

Koch (1857, p. 296) established the genus *Tychea* with two new species, *T. graminis* (p. 298) and *T. amycli* (p. 300); the first was designated as type species by Kirkaldy (1906, p. 9). The original description of *T. graminis* was based on a mixture of an unidentifiable scale insect from the family PSEUDOCOCCIDAE and an aphid, which according to Schouteden's (1906) interpretation is identical to *Tetraneura ulmi* (Linnaeus, 1758, p. 452) (see Morrison & Morrison, 1966, p. 80; Eastop & Hille Ris Lambers, 1976, p. 444). Neither the generic name *Tychea* nor the species name *T. graminis* are in use (see BZN **46**: 120, para. 6) and they are a source of potential confusion.